#21: THEIR CHOICE
LIFE, ALWAYS SUDDEN...
LIFE, ALWAYS TOO FAST...
プラチナエンド
Platinum End
STORY: OHBA TSUGUMI
ART: OBATA TAKESHI

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NOTES

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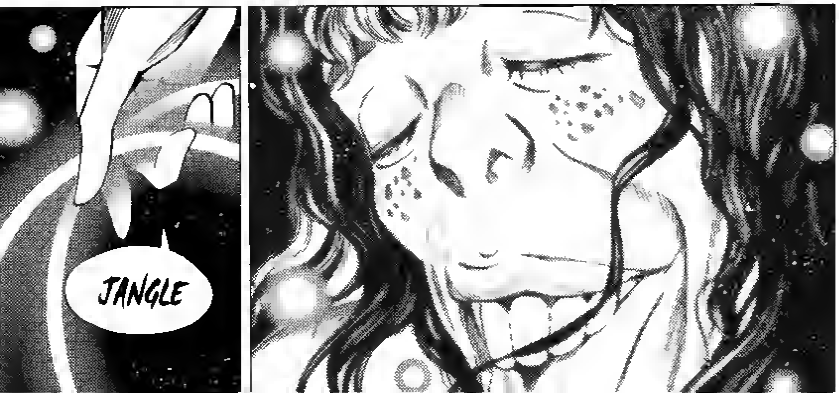
TWO LIGHTS FLICKER OUT.

YOU... PROTECTED ME...
.....


JANGLE

TLANG
HERE YOU GO, MISS YELLOW.
AND DON'T FORGET THIS, EITHER.
THE RED ARROW I HIT HIM WITH...

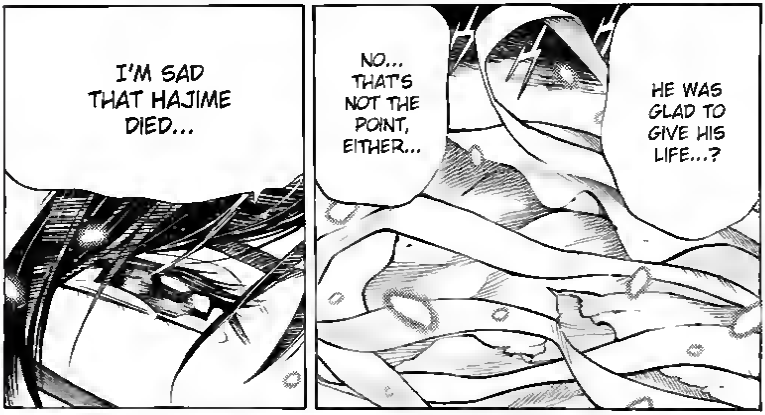
HMPH.

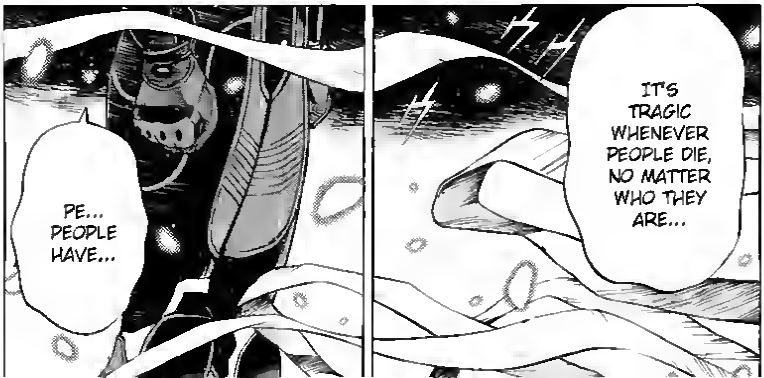
TANIZOKO HAJIME SHOULD AT LEAST DIE IN THE HAPPIEST WAY POSSIBLE, JUST AS HE WISHED.
HAJIME'S DEATH IS QUITE THE BOON FOR ME.
THAT WAS PRETTY AMUSING. A PARADE OF FOOLS WILLING TO DIE FOR OTHERS, ALL BECAUSE OF THE RED ARROW.
IF YOU WANT TO THANK ANYONE FOR THIS, THEN THANK RED.

HAJIME DIED BECAUSE RED COULDN'T DECIDE ON WHETHER OR NOT TO KILL KOHINATA.
IF I HAD KILLED KOHINATA...
HAJIME... WOULD...
NO, IN THE END, HE DIED PROTECTING YELLOW. YOU GUYS PRACTICALLY KILLED HIM YOURSELVES.
YOU TWO ARE HAJIME'S KILLERS! I ALMOST WANT TO THANK YOU FOR THE HELP.
THAT... THAT'S NOT TRUE.

NO... NO ONE WANTS TO KILL...
HAH...
REALLY...THE ONLY ONE WISHING FOR BLOOD...THE ONLY PERSON KILLING...IS YOU, METRO-POLIMAN...
HAH...
HAH...
RED, YELLOW... YOU DON'T HAVE TO BLAME YOURSELVES...
HAH...
HAH..
THAT'S... NOT IT EITHER...

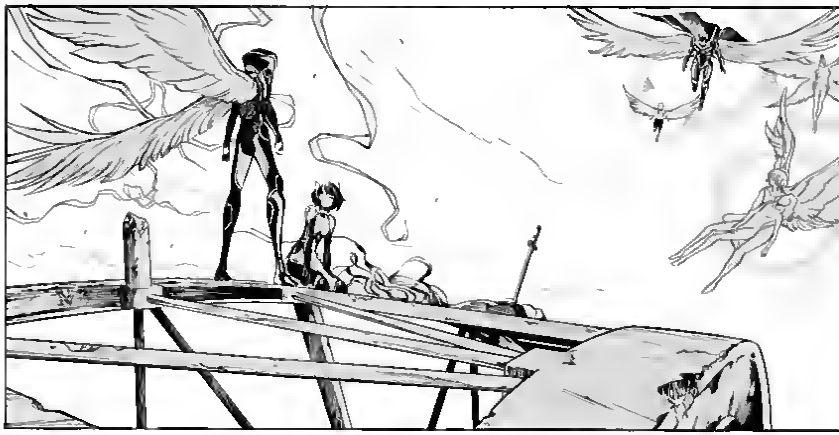
IT'S NOT ABOUT WHO'S AT FAULT...
THAT'S NOT IT...


I'M SAD THAT HAJIME DIED...
NO... THAT'S NOT THE POINT, EITHER...
HE WAS GLAD TO GIVE HIS LIFE...?


PE... PEOPLE HAVE...
IT'S TRAGIC WHENEVER PEOPLE DIE, NO MATTER WHO THEY ARE...

PEOPLE HAVE NO CHOICE BUT TO LIVE! THAT'S WHY YOU CAN'T JUST TAKE SOMEONE'S LIFE LIKE THAT!

JUST HOW SICKENING CAN YOU GET?
.....



IT'S NOT LIKE THERE'S A TIME CONSTRAINT, RIGHT?
YOU'RE PRETTY EASYGOING FOR AN ANGEL.
GUESS I'LL STAY AND SEE HOW THIS PANS OUT.
HEH, THIS IS INTEREST-ING.
フフ...
.....
YEAH...
I'M— SAD TOO.

BOTH KOHINATA AND HAJIME WERE SUPPOSED TO BE YOUR COMRADES, AND YET...YOU...
"COMRADES", HUH? TWO IDIOTS DIED, THAT'S ALL
.....
I'M ESPECIALLY RELIEVED THAT HAJIME DIED, HONESTLY.
HE KEPT SAYING THAT HE WANTED TO BE MY SERVANT, SO I DID A BACKGROUND CHECK, AND, WELL
I CAN'T STAND PEOPLE LIKE THAT.
IT WAS HELL.

EVEN AMONG THE LOWEST RUNG OF THE LADDER, HE WAS BAD.
LIVING IN A CARDBOARD HOUSE UNDER A BRIDGE.
HIS PARENTS DIDN'T WORK AND WASTED THEIR LIVES BETWEEN ALCOHOL AND GAMBLING
NO MONEY, NO EDUCATION, AND NO FRIENDS.
AT SCHOOL, HE WAS IGNORED BY EVERYONE.
SO UGLY THAT THE ONLY CONNECTION HE HAD WITH GIRLS WAS PROBABLY THEM PEEKING AT HIM AND WHISPERING IN SECRET. SCUM, REALLY.
THE SAME AS THOSE.
THOSE DIRTY, DISGUSTING, UGLY THINGS THAT CRAWL IN FILTH
HE COULD STRUGGLE ALL HE WANTED. NOTHING BUT A CESSPOOL OF A LIFE AWAITED HIM. HE WAS JUST TRASH.

COCK-
ROACHES.
HE WAS JUST LIKE A COCKROACH, RIGHT?
EVERYONE WANTS TO SQUASH THEM, RIGHT?

OR ARE YOU SUCH A KIND HUMAN BEING THAT YOU WON'T EVEN KILL COCK-ROACHES?
I WOULDN'T KILL THEM WITHOUT A REASON.
SFX. "IRRITATED"
HE'S BETTER OFF DEAD, RIGHT?

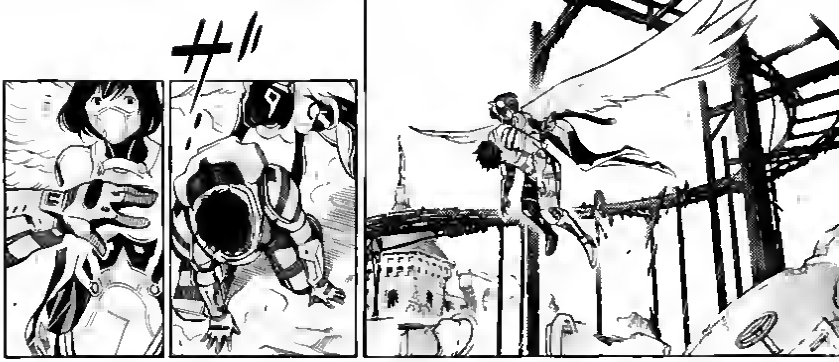
THE OPPOSITE?
?
IT'S THE OPPOSITE.
NO MATTER WHAT YOU SAY, NOTHING WILL CHANGE.
HAH
RED... IT'S A WASTE OF TIME
HAH
COUGH!
HE HE'S..
COUGH!
THE PEOPLE AROUND YOU MUST REALLY BE TROUBLED.
A WARRIOR ON THE BATTLEFIELD... THAT DOESN'T EVEN KILL INSECTS.
.....

GWAH ....!
GW...

MUKAIDO-SAN!!!

GO BACK..
!
MUKAIDO-SAN!! I'LL TAKE YOU TO THE HOSPITAL ...!
I HAVE TO SEE HIM... DROP DEAD... FIRST...
SSSHHH
.....

TAKE CARE OF GREEN
HE CAN'T FLY BY HIMSELF.



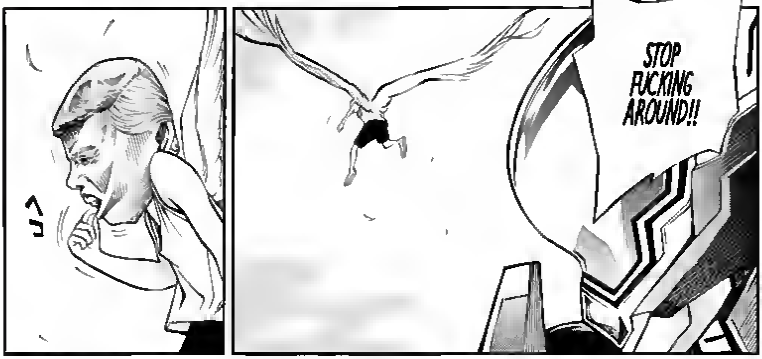
HAH
HAH
HAH
METRO-POLIMAN... YOU'RE A COWARD... SO YOU'LL GO LAST...

THE NEXT OPPONENT... IS THAT BOY BEHIND YOU...
YOU'LL MAKE AN UNARMED BOY AND RED, WHO CAN'T EVEN KILL AN INSECT, FIGHT TO THE DEATH... THAT'S JUST LIKE YOU...

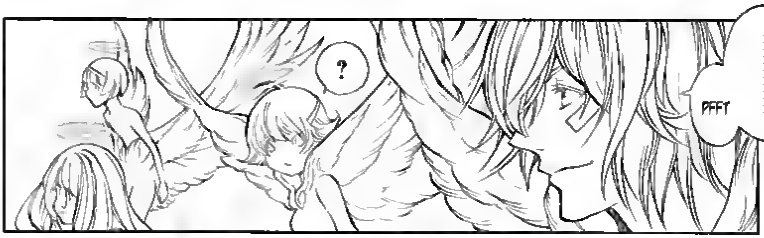
YOU'RE RIGHT!
HEH... WHAT NASTY WORDS.
AND WATCH ALL OF US, GRINNING!
THIS GUY IS GOING TO MAKE A KID LIKE ME FIGHT!
NO MATTER IF I WIN OR LOSE ...
HE'LL JUST WATCH ME DIE, LIKE THOSE TWO...

?
HEY.
WHAT THE HELL ARE YOU SAYING?
I'M NOT GOING TO FIGHT!!
NO WAY!! I DON'T WANNA DIE!! I'M SCARED, SO I'LL RUN AWAY!!
HEY-
AAAAH!! NOOOO!!
DON'T GET ANY CLOSER!! HE'S GONNA KILL MEEE!!
AAAAHHH!
.....

NOOO !!!
NOOO !!!
MO-MMYY YYYY !!!


STOP FUCKING AROUND!!
:3

BLEEEHHH

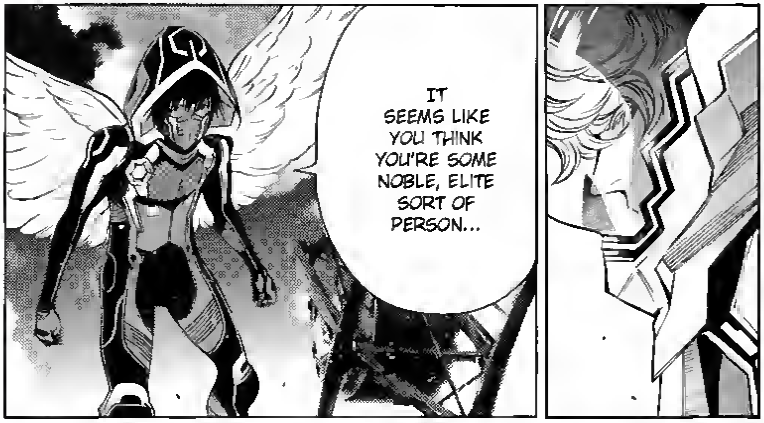

?
PFFT
.....

TCH.

ONE WORSE THAN THE OTHER...
A SLUM-BORN BOTOX MONSTER,
A MILITARY-FANATIC MUSCLEHEAD...
A PSYCHO JUNKIE
AND A SHITTY LITTLE COWARD...
THEN WE HAVE AN OLD MAN WHO CAN'T EVEN FLY AND A USELESS LITTLE HELPER KITTY!!

AND FINALLY, WE GET TO THE 1-ON-1 WITH THE "GOODIE GOODIE", YOU.
LET'S GO.
FINALLY
.....

YOU CAN'T USE THE WHITE ARROW AND WON'T EVEN KILL ROACHES.
I TOLD YOU, IT'S THE OPPOSITE.
DON'T GET COCKY.


IT SEEMS LIKE YOU THINK YOU'RE SOME NOBLE, ELITE SORT OF PERSON...

BUT EVEN COCKROACHES DON'T KILL PEOPLE.

I'M SAYING THAT YOU'RE LOWER THAN A COCK-ROACH.

NO...

I'M LOWER THAN A COCKROACH, SO YOU CAN KILL ME?
THAT'S YOUR JUSTIFICATION FOR KILLING ME?

AHA!

I JUST DON'T GET YOU.
イラ
SFX IRRITATED
I WON'T KILL YOU.
I THOUGHT ABOUT THE BEST WAY TO DO THIS.
I'LL STRIKE YOU WITH THE RED ARROW, BLINDFOLD YOU, PUT YOU IN PRISON, AND TELL EVERYTHING TO THE AUTHORITIES.
YOU'LL BE JUDGED BY THE LAW.
PFFT.
IT'S A PITY FOR YOU, BUT IT'S THE ONLY WAY.

YOU THOUGHT SO HARD, AND THAT'S WHAT YOU CAME UP WITH!?!
YOU'LL TELL THEM ABOUT THE ANGELS!? ABOUT RED ARROWS THAT CONTROL PEOPLE AND WHITE ARROWS THAT KILL THEM!?
THERE'S NO WAY THE LAW CAN PROCESS SUPERNATURAL PHENOMENA LIKE THESE!!!

WHY DON'T YOU GET IT?
I WON'T KILL YOU.
JUST USE THE WHITE ARROW TO KILL ME!!
THE WHITE ARROW IS SIMPLER AND MORE RELIABLE!!
FOR THE SAKE OF MY HAPPI-NESS.

I THINK THAT IF A PROPER PERSON KILLS SOMEONE, THEY WILL BE TORMENTED BY THEIR CONSCIENCE UNTIL THEY DIE.
THEY WOULDN'T BE ABLE TO BE TRULY HAPPY ANYMORE.
NO WAY I'M GOING TO HAVE MY HAPPINESS TAKEN AWAY FROM ME BECAUSE I KILLED SOMEONE LOWER THAN A COCKROACH.
HAHAHA! LOWER THAN A COCK-ROACH!

I UNDERSTAND WELL THAT AS LONG AS YOU LIVE
MY AND HUMANITY'S HAPPINESS ARE IN DANGER.
SO...
I COULDN'T COMMIT TO PUTTING MY LIFE ON THE LINE FOR TENS OF THOUSANDS OF PEOPLE.
BUT I STILL DON'T WANT TO SOIL MY HANDS WITH DEATH FOR THE LIKES OF YOU.
FOR THE SAKE OF MY HAPPINESS
I WILL HIT YOU WITH THE RED ARROW.

I'LL GIVE HIM THE FINAL BLOW AFTER THAT.
IF YOU CAN JUST HIT HIM WITH THE RED...
I WILL... DEFINITELY...
HAH
HAH
RED... THAT'S GOOD...
MUKAIDO-SAN, I'M SORRY.
IF NOT KILLING HIM IS YOUR HAPPINESS...
TO KILL HIM WITH MY OWN TWO HANDS.
MY HAPPINESS IS...

I CAN UNDER-STAND.
NO...
I DON'T THINK YOU CAN UNDERSTAND, BUT...

LET'S DO IT
!!!
sss
YOUR RED!! MY WHITE!! UNTIL EITHER ONE HITS...
GOT IT.

PEOPLE LIKE YOU, THAT FIGHT RELYING ON EMOTIONS AND MOMENTUM, ARE THE ONES THAT DIE FIRST.

I'M GOING TO TAKE THAT SUIT AFTER I KILL YOU.
AS PROMISED,
RE-MEMBER WHAT I SAID?
THOSE THAT ARE BETTER PREPARED WILL SURVIVE ...
THE BATTLE IS...ONE ON ONE.

PLATINUM END - CONTINUES IN SEPTEMBER ISSUE

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